FELLOW NEWS

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWS

ISSUE FIFTEEN OCTOBER 2002

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TO RELAY INFORMATION ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND PROVIDE A FORUM FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMONG FELLOWS, MENTORS, SEA GRANT, AND THE CENTER.

FOCUS ON FELLOWS: KATE ARDIZONE 2001–2003

Did you know that Michigan has the most coastline of any of the lower 48 states? Kate Ardizone's store of little known facts about Michigan comes courtesy of spending the last year creating *Environmental Protection for Coastal Communities: A Guide for Local Governments* for Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality. Kate's knowledge of Michigan's coastline comes not only from her research efforts of the past year, but also from childhood memories.

Although she grew up in land-locked southern Indiana, Kate spent many of her summers sailing on her family's wooden sloop on Lake Michigan and picnicking on beautiful stretches of undeveloped shore. Her love of the natural world came from those experiences and from spending a great deal of time camping and hiking in and around Hoosier National Forest.

As an undergraduate at Ball State University, Kate studied speech communication and political science with the intention of becoming an environmental lobbyist. After graduation she spent a few years working as a public information officer for the Indiana State Senate and spent two years as an international studies program coordinator at Boston University's Institute for Study Abroad. She went on to earn her master's degree in environmental policy and natural resource management from the Indiana University School of Public & Environmental Affairs in Bloomington.

Kate (left), with one of her mentors, Cathie Cunningham (Chief of the Michigan Coastal Program), at a project site in Antrim County. She explains that the boulders were placed there in an effort to prevent people from driving over these sensitive, emergent wetland areas.

Kate learned of the Coastal Management Fellowship while working at the Coastal Services Center in Charleston, South Carolina. Because of her interest in environmental policy, and from personally witnessing many of Michigan's sleepy coastal towns change from cozy to crowded, Michigan's environmental protection project seemed to be a perfect fit. Kate was thrilled to be nominated by the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium for the Coastal Management Fellowship.

Michigan has more than 300 local governments with land use authority along the coast and over 1800 statewide. Because Michigan does not have statewide or comprehensive planning,

land use planning and zoning is administered at the village, municipal, township, and county level. Consequently, jurisdiction and coordination issues present many challenges to resource protection.

To overcome these challenges, Kate's project involves developing a guidebook to provide information and guidance to local officials and planners on steps they can take to minimize the impacts of development on coastal resources and to improve coordination between state and coastal authorities. The book is intended to explain ecological functions and significance, clarify roles of state and local governments, and identify planning techniques that can assist communities in resource protection.

Kate feels that one of the most rewarding aspects of the fellowship has been the opportunity to work with her co-mentors, Cathie Cunningham, chief of the Michigan Coastal Program, and Mark Wyckoff, president of Planning and Zoning Center, Inc. In her words they are both "amazing" people and have been "a tremendous asset" to her project. Overall, Kate has found people very receptive to the project because coastal communities are faced with increasing development pressure and this will provide them with much-needed decision-making tools.

Currently in full-swing of development, the first draft of the guidebook will be complete by the end of mid November. With administration changes on the horizon for Michigan, the editing phase is likely to continue into February. Printing is slated for early spring 2003. The primary means of distribution will be through a series of workshops to be held throughout the state. The meetings will provide a forum to discuss the content of the guidebook and introduce the applications of technical tools such as geographic information systems (GIS). Additionally, the guidebook will be available at the Department of Environmental Quality office.

Right now Kate is focused on finishing her fellowship but says that she would love to stay in Michigan if the right opportunity presented itself. After all, Kate feels personally connected to the area. Without a doubt, she will continue to enjoy all of the natural beauty that Michigan has to offer during the last year of her fellowship.?

NOAA Coastal Services Center
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

FOCUS ON FELLOWS: PETE SLOVINSKY 2001–2003

Like many fellows, Pete Slovinsky's love of the beach began as a child. He grew up near the New Jersey shore, where he learned to fish, surf, and appreciate the ocean. However, it was an independent thesis, which he conducted as part of his undergraduate program at Franklin & Marshall College, that really sparked his interest in coastal geology. For this project, Pete examined beach responses to a sediment bypass system located at Indian River Inlet, Delaware, where sand from the southern accreting side of the jetty was pumped to the northern eroding side.

After completing his degree in geology, Pete worked in the Cape May courthouse in New Jersey for four years as an environmental consultant. During this time, he conducted wetland delineations and prepared environmental permit

reports for development within the New Jersey coastal zone. While working at the courthouse, he decided that he wanted to focus specifically on coastal processes and policy from the regulatory side. Therefore he returned to graduate school at the University of South Carolina's Coastal Processes and Sediment Dynamics Laboratory, where he studied coastal geology. His master's thesis work involved analyzing the spatial variation of beach profiles along the shores of South Carolina and categorizing segment of the shoreline into geomorphic compartments based on beach profile shape, wave climate, and other geomorphic characteristics.

It was during an Internet job search that Pete came across the Maine project for the Coastal Management Fellowship program. "If I could have handwritten my own perfect job description, it would have been this project," claims Pete of the Maine Geological Survey's project entitled "Creating a Sustainable Beach Community at Camp Ellis, Maine." He enjoys mixing his scientific geological background with his policy interests.

Originally slated to examine erosion and mitigation techniques in Camp Ellis, Maine, the project, as Pete explains, has expanded to encompass all of Saco Bay, the bay in which Camp Ellis lies. Saco Bay is an enclosed littoral cell, and Pete felt it was important to examine the entire cell to understand what is going on in a particular area.

As part of a partnership that includes state agencies, local city mangers and stakeholders, the Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal agencies, he is providing technical support on coastal processes in developing a mitigation strategy for erosion at Camp Ellis. He has completed a draft technical report that focuses on coastal processes and erosion and accretion trends along the Saco Bay shoreline, and outlines recommendations for beach management.

Another component to the project includes developing a beach nourishment policy. Pete has currently completed a draft policy and is preparing for the next step—to meet with other state agencies and stakeholders for their input. Beach nourishment has not been widely used in Maine, and policy development faces several challenges. First, sediment supply in the nearshore environment is relatively low and is generally confined within littoral cells. Second, the majority of the Maine coastline is privately held to the low-water line due to an ordinance that dates back to colonial times. The ordinance allows shorefront property owners to own the beach to the low-water line, as opposed to the high-water line, as in most states. It permits general public access to the intertidal zone only for the purposes of fishing, fowling, and navigation. Federal beach nourishment funding regulations stipulate that areas being nourished must become publicly held and fully accessible to the public. Many homeowners want the nourishment but don't want to forfeit their right to intertidal lands. The Maine Geological Survey is currently working with the University of Maine School of Law to work out the legal implications.

Pete not only expects to complete the outlined project by the end of the fellowship, but is also excited that he may be able to accomplish much more. In addition to the originally proposed tasks, he has worked on rewriting the State of Maine's Coastal Sand Dune Rules, which underwent public comment in August. He also is working to implement a beach scoring program along the Maine coastline that identifies segments of shoreline that need certain types of beach management. In addition, he is hoping to begin mapping nearshore bathymetry of Saco Bay and other nearshore areas using a

specialized nearshore survey system. He says he enjoys the prestige and high expectations that go along with being a fellow, as they push him to want to accomplish more. He also feels that the mentorship within his fellowship has been great for personal and professional development.

While he has just under a year remaining in the fellowship, Pete has begun to plan for his future in Maine. He and his wife, Mindy, a market research analyst, are establishing roots there. They recently purchased and are working to restore a 1902 hip-roof colonial home in South Portland. Pete and a friend have also started the Northern New England chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, an international non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the world's beaches. Pete works as a volunteer coordinator for the foundation, organizing events such as beach clean-ups. In his free time, Pete surfs, fishes, and mountain bikes as much as he can. He says he would love to have the opportunity to remain with the state program in Maine as there are so many things that he hopes to accomplish and continue to be involved with in Maine. ?

*** Upcoming Events ***

OCTOBER

7–9: ***Wetlands 2002: Restoring Impaired Wetlands and Other Waters***
Location: Indianapolis, Indiana
www.core4.org/Core4/Wetlands/Wetlands2002.html

27–30: ***California and the World Ocean '02***
Location: Santa Barbara, California
http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/CWO_02/Call_index.html

29–31: ***Oceans '02***
Location: Biloxi, Mississippi
www.oceans2002.com/

NOVEMBER

20–24: ***6th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration***
Location: Charleston, South Carolina
www.scseagrant.org/icsr.htm

JANUARY

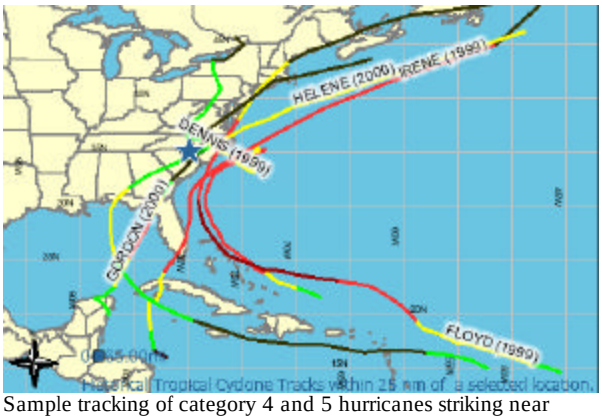
6–9: ***Coastal GeoTools '03***
Location: Charleston, South Carolina
www.csc.noaa.gov/GeoTools/

28–31: ***Emerging Technologies, Tools, and Techniques to Manage our Coasts in the 21st Century***
Location: Cocoa Beach, Florida
www.tech-transfer-conference.com/

FOCUS ON THE CENTER: NEW HISTORICAL HURRICANE TRACKS TOOL

Andrew, Hugo, Gracie, Floyd, Camille, Opal. These are just a few of the many hurricanes that you can track with the Center's new Historical Hurricane Tracks tool. In a partnership with NOAA's Tropical Prediction Center, the Center has developed an Internet-based, interactive tool that allows you to search and display tracks of various storms that have occurred in the Atlantic Basin since 1851. Searches can be made using geographic criteria such as ZIP code, state, county, city, region, or latitude and longitude and by storm parameters such as storm name, date, Saffir-Simpson category, and distance from a specified location.

In addition to its storm-tracking capabilities, the Web site also offers a searchable database of population changes from 1900 to 2000 for U.S. coastal counties affected by hurricanes. Graphs display decadal population levels for a given county, along with direct and indirect hurricane strikes for that area. Seeing population and storm data together can be a powerful tool in communities become better prepared to deal with meteorological hazards.



Sample tracking of category 4 and 5 hurricanes striking near North Carolina from 1999 – 2000.

A final component of the Web site is the inclusion of detailed tropical cyclone reports for storms affecting the Atlantic Basin from 1958 to 2001. Each report contains a summary of the cyclone life cycle and pertinent meteorological data, a description of damage and casualties produced by the system, and information on forecasts and warnings associated with the cyclone.

This tool is simple enough for the general public to use yet contains useful information for researchers and emergency preparedness officials. For more information, please visit *www.csc.noaa.gov/hurricane_tracks/*. ?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR …

UPCOMING DEADLINES FOR THE 2003 NOAA COASTAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

➢ Final project selection	November 12, 2002
➢ Fellow candidate applications to Sea Grant directors	January 31, 2003
➢ Nomination packages due from Sea Grant	February 28, 2003
➢ Finalist selection	Mid-March, 2003
➢ Project/fellow matching workshop (in Charleston, SC)	April 22-25, 2003
➢ Fellow trip to matched state program	TBD between fellow and state
➢ Project/fellow start date	August 1, 2003

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT THE FELLOWSHIP WEB SITE:

www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows.html

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